



# *Read Kansas!*

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*By the Kansas State Historical Society*

## Famous Kansan



*Georgia Neese Clark Gray*  
1900-1995

Georgia Neese Clark Gray was very independent as a child. When she was growing up, Gray wanted to be in business like her father. He owned a bank, a lumber company, a general store, a grain elevator, and some farms. She knew she could manage a business as well as any man could. During the summer she worked in her father's bank. At that time women did not usually run a business. Gray would prove that she could do those things and more.

When in college, Gray decided she liked being an actress. For a time she worked in New York as an actress. Then she moved to California to act in movies. When Gray's father died she moved back to Kansas. She became president of her father's bank. She ran all of her father's businesses, too. Later Gray would start her own bank.

Georgia Neese Clark Gray believed in helping her community. She decided that one good way to do that was to become a politician. Gray started by volunteering. Then she was elected the Democratic National Committee woman from Kansas. She became friends with Harry S. Truman. When Truman was elected president, he asked Gray to be the first woman treasurer of the United States. Gray showed people that a woman could be responsible about money the same way a man could. She showed people that she could make good business decisions. After she left office she married Andrew Gray.



The U.S. Treasurer has his or her signature on any money printed at the time he or she is in office. That meant that Georgia Neese Clark's signature was on the money that was printed between 1949 and 1953. She bought the first 2,800 one-dollar bills printed with her signature. She gave them to her friends as souvenirs.

Georgia Neese Clark Gray knew that her most important job was as the first woman treasurer of the United States. She knew that people would remember her for that job. Once she told her friends that the job of treasurer is a heavy job, because the door to the vault weighs 39 tons!